

spines that follow short, and not protruding much beyond the skin. First spine in the dorsal very strong, aculeated at the anterior edge, but not at the sides; no third spine in this fin. Second dorsal and anal even. Caudal rounded.

D. 2—24; A. 21; C. 12; P. 13.

Length 2 inc. 3 lin.

COLOUR.—Not noticed in the recent state. The ground colour has probably been altered by the spirit, but the markings are still very distinct, and accord tolerably with Bloch's figure, except that the oblique bands on the posterior part of the body, in front of and above the anal, are darker; while they alternate with four white ones, which are particularly conspicuous. Possibly these white bands may have been originally blue, as the narrow stripes descending from the eyes to the pectorals, which evidently were of that colour, are nearly faded to a white. There is also a white stain on each side of the tail, where the spines are, which appears to have been blue originally: the spines themselves are deep shining black.

This specimen shows the black transverse bands between the eyes, and the broad band passing from the eye to the pectoral, between the narrow blue ones above alluded to, all represented by Bloch, but not observed by Mr. Bennett in the specimen figured in the "Zoology of Beechey's Voyage."

Habitat, Tahiti.

The above specimen was taken by Mr. Darwin at Tahiti. It is quite small, and differs in some respects from the figures of Bloch and other authors, but it is evidently referable to the *B. aculeatus*. The species is probably subject to variation in respect of colouring.

1. ALEUTERES MACULOSUS. *Richards.*

Aleuterus maculosus, *Richards.* in Proceed. of Zool. Soc. 1840. p. 28.

FORM.—Oval, somewhat approaching to fusiform behind, very much compressed. The greatest depth one-third of the entire length. Skin covered with little granular points, terminating in very minute bristles, and communicating a slight roughness to the touch, when the finger is passed from tail to head. Snout rather prominent and acute: jaws equal. Dorsal spine springing from above the middle of the orbit of the eye; strong, with four rows of sharp prickles at the four angles, pointing downwards, and very regularly set: second dorsal spine very minute. The second dorsal and anal fins have been lost in this specimen, and their form and number of rays cannot be determined. The pectorals are small, each with twelve rays. Caudal rounded, also with twelve rays.

Length 5 inc. 4 lines.

COLOUR.—"Mottled with pale blackish green, leaving white spots."—D.—In its present state, the skin is nearly gone from long maceration in impure spirit: such portions as are left accord well with Dr. Richardson's description, appearing of a mouse-grey, with darker mottlings. There are three or four rather indistinct dark ascæ across the caudal.

Habitat, King George's Sound.

I have scarcely any doubt of this being the *A. maculosus* described by Dr. Richardson, in his recently published notes on a collection of fishes from Van Diemen's Land. Mr. Darwin's specimen, which is in bad condition, was obtained by him in King George's Sound.

2. ALEUTERES VELUTINUS. *Jen.*

A. pallide fuscescens, fasciis quatuor obscurioribus, longitudinalibus, indistinctis; pinnis pallide aurantiis: corpore oblongo-ovali elongato; cute delicate hispida, scabrâ: rostro producto, apice obtuso: spinâ dorsali aculeis lateralibus deflexis, uniseriatis: pinnis dorsali secundâ et anali multum ante caudalem desinentibus.

D. 2—33; A. 31; C. 12; P. 13 vel 14.

Long. unc. 8.

FORM.—Elongated, approaching to oblong-oval, the tail rather slender. Greatest depth exactly one-fourth of the entire length, and equalling the length of the head, this last being measured to the upper angle of the oblique branchial orifice. Back slightly arched, the curvature rather exceeding that of the belly. Profile in front of the dorsal spine falling very gradually, and not much out of the rectilinear. Snout considerably produced, but blunt at the extremity. Mouth small; jaws equal; teeth strong, and very sharp. Eyes round, placed exactly above the branchial orifice. The grains on the skin are coarser than in the *A. maculosus*, and the bristles springing from them longer and more developed, especially on the posterior part of the body, communicating a harsher feel to the touch: these bristles are slightly hooked at their extremities, the tips being turned towards the tail.

Dorsal spine strong, situate above the posterior part of the orbit, with only two principal rows of prickles, one on each of the two lateral edges; anteriorly granulated at bottom, with a few rudimentary prickles towards the apex, but posteriorly almost quite smooth. Second spine very minute. The distance from the first spine to the commencement of the second dorsal fin equals twice the length of that spine. The anal commences under the fifth dorsal ray, and ends nearly in a line with the termination of that fin, but extends a trifle further. Both fins fall short of the caudal by a considerable space. Pectorals rather small. The caudal is worn at the end, but appears to have been either square or slightly rounded.

COLOUR.—"Very pale brown: fins pale orange."—D.

A second specimen is smaller than the above, measuring six inches and three-quarters in length. It is exactly similar in respect to form, and general colour; but the sides are marked with four tolerably distinct longitudinal bands, extending from the branchial orifice to the caudal, rather darker than the ground on which they are traced. There is very little indication of these bands in the first specimen.

Habitat, King George's Sound.

This species was taken by Mr. Darwin in King George's Sound, and appears to be new. It has some points of resemblance with the *Balistes Ayraud* of Quoy